

Impact Report of School Finances on Van Buren Public Schools
January 11, 2005

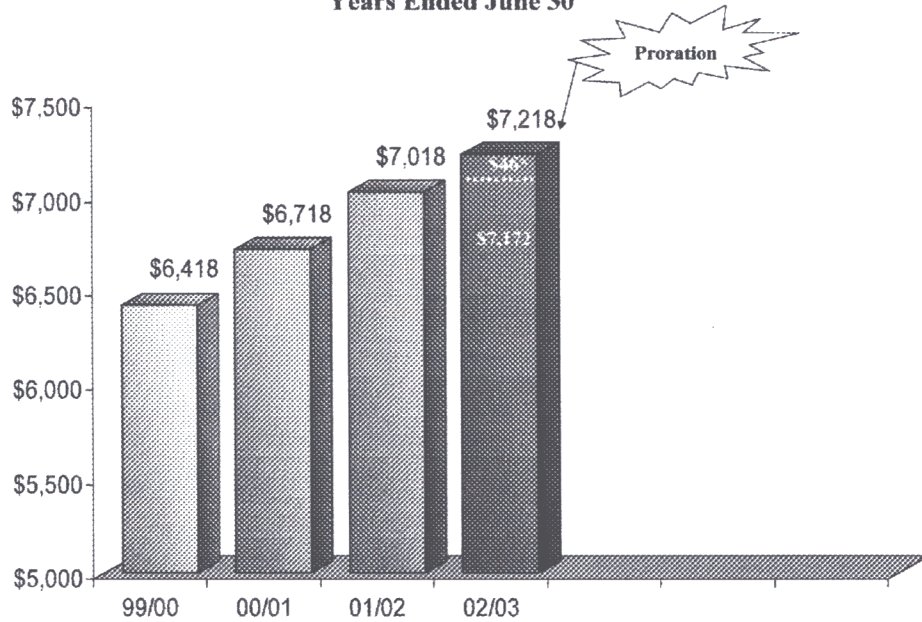
Pete Lazaroff

I would like to thank you for this opportunity to present the impact that State financing is having on the Van Buren Public Schools District. Our district is located on the western edge of Wayne County and services approximately 6,100 students from the City of Belleville and the townships of Van Buren, Sumpter, Canton, Romulus, and Ypsilanti. Our annual budget is approximately \$50 million. The cuts we have had to make over the last two years and the expected cuts we will have to make this year is having a devastating affect on the children of our community.

As we start a new calendar year, we continue to watch the State's financial position with a wary eye. The legislators of the last year gave us a very short reprieve by transferring money from the State's General fund into the education fund. This action kept the District from making deep mid year cuts. However, the long-term picture remains bleak. Past history indicates that legislators in Lansing could very well give us funding with one hand and take it back with the other.

To understand the affect this years budget cuts will have on the Van Buren Public Schools community, we must first take a look at the cuts we have made over the last two years.

Van Buren Public Schools
Foundation Allowance
Years Ended June 30

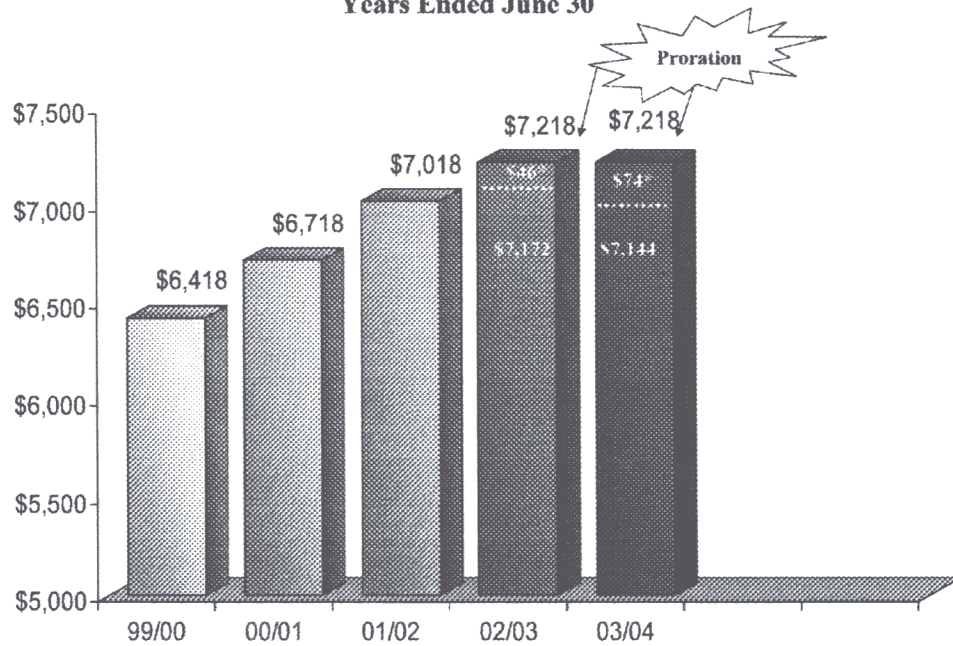


2002-2003 Implemented Reductions in excess of \$2,600,000

- ESIP Savings
- At Risk reductions
- Reduction of 12 General Ed Certified
- Custodial/Building/Grounds reductions
- Eliminated general fund support of LAP Grant Program
- Administration Dept. reductions
- Eliminated Summer School At Risk program
- Athletic Dept. reductions
- Transportation Dept. reductions
- Eliminated general fund support for 6th grade camp
- Other reductions

Van Buren Public Schools

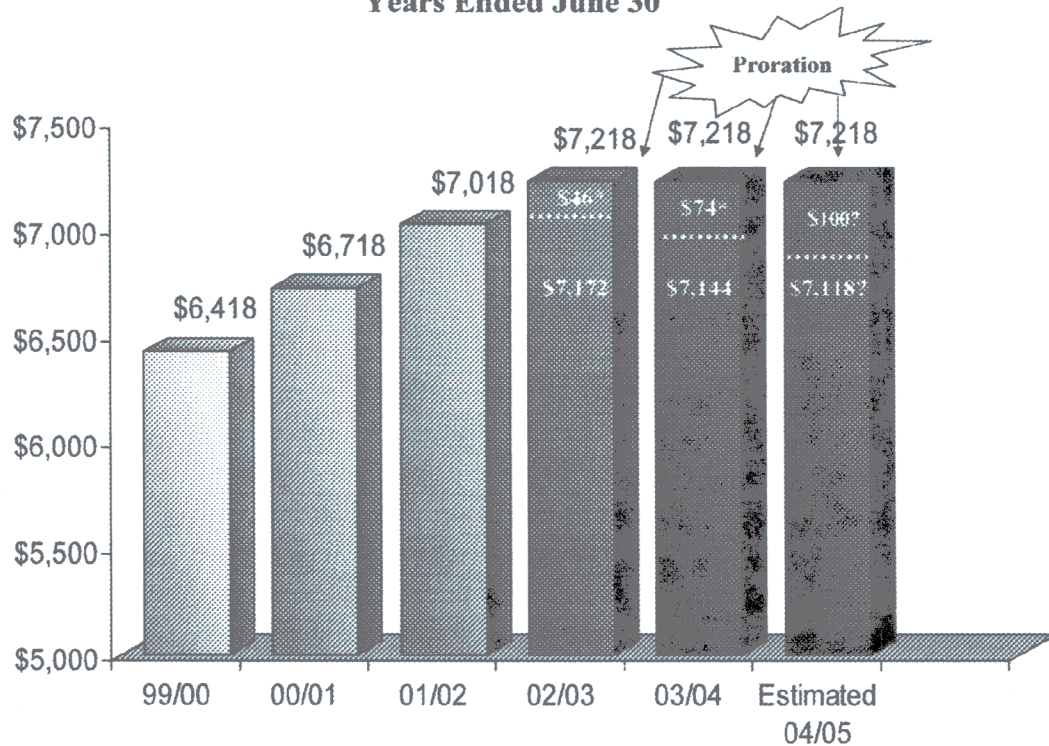
Foundation Allowance
Years Ended June 30



2003-2004 Implemented Reductions in excess of \$1,800,000

- Elementary reductions
- Custodial/maintenance
- General administration
- Belleville High School
- Special Ed
- Utility Management
- Capital outlay/travel
- Transportation
- Athletic
- Other reductions

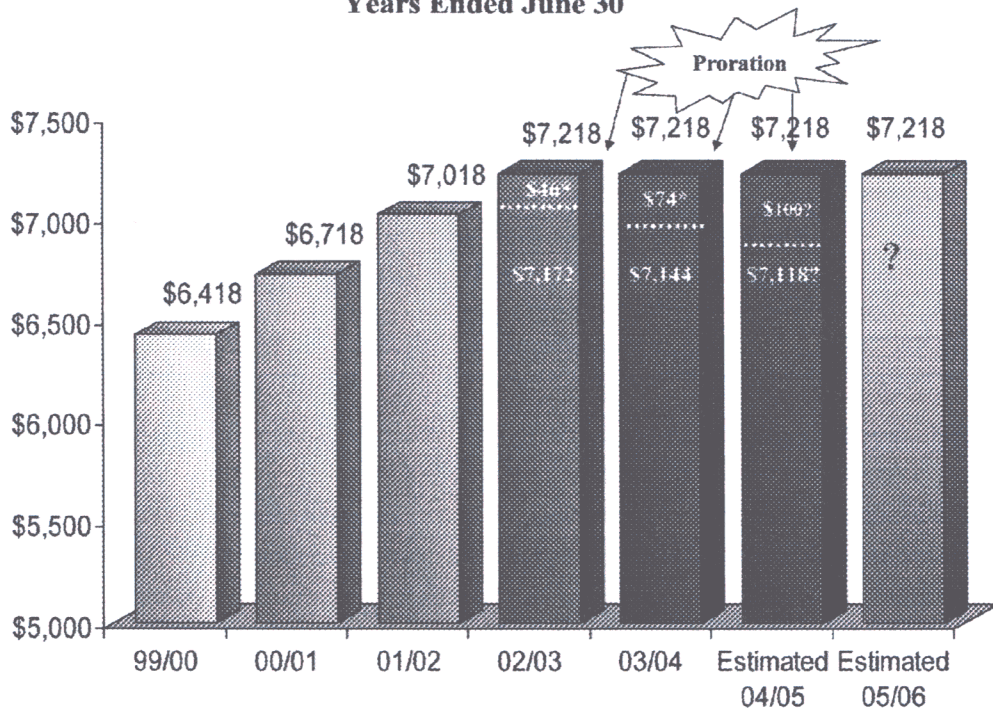
**Van Buren Public Schools
Foundation Allowance
Years Ended June 30**



2004-2005 Proposed Mid Year Cuts

- 1.5 Belleville High School teacher
- Reduction in high graduation allocation
- 1 spec ed self-contained
- 1 spec ed resource room
- 1 spec ed paraprofessional
- 1 Title 1 Teacher to offset reduction of Title 1 funding allocation
- 6 custodial and .6 maintenance
- 60% reduction of school improvement allocation
- Eliminate general fund contribution to Young Authors

Van Buren Public Schools
Foundation Allowance
Years Ended June 30



2005 – 2006 Proposed Reductions

- Continuation of 2004-05 mid year reductions
- Close 1 Elementary (Haggerty)
- Redistricting to reduce student time on the bus and save transportation
- Increase 20 minutes per day to reduce 9.5 operating days
- 3 teacher consultants
- Kindergarten program ½ day instruction – ½ day care
- 3 elementary phys ed
- 1 social worker
- 1 middle school counselor
- 1 media center certified staff
- Elimination of 15 hour secretaries
- Belleville High School 3.7 certified staff reductions
- Eliminate new enrollees to HVAC or MIOA
- ESIP Savings
- Athletic fee for transportation/trainer services: \$50/high school student
\$30/middle school student

As you can see, this next wave of cuts will have a disastrous affect on our school district.

The situation calls for a drastic look at how we deliver education within our budgetary means that will provide a strong foundation and a comprehensive secondary program by thinking outside of the box. Our Board members are doing exactly that by “rethinking the high school. . .looking into creating smaller communities” to create a more flexible learning environment for high school students. Another Board member, Victor Hogan, would like to see smaller class sizes, thus our district drawing-in prospective students and increasing funding for the district. Our Board President, David Peer, initiated “zero-based” budgeting within our district with an emphasis on smaller class sizes, giving priority to the classroom teacher. I think that the message from our district is clear: We need to make education more meaningful for every student from the high school on down. In order to achieve this, we must find new ways to better involve parents, businesses, and community members to build a stronger educational system where the students want to learn.

Every school in the Van Buren Public Schools District has met AYP. It is now time to do more to ensure a brighter future for Van Buren Public Schools students and students across the State. Stronger schools. Stronger communities. A stronger Michigan.

I would like to once again thank you all for the input and support you have provided our district during these difficult times. Reconciling State and Federal requirements, contract obligations, and, above all, providing a quality education for our students while balancing the budget is a daunting task that requires much consideration and guidance on both the local and state levels.

Pete L. Lazaroff, Jr.

Superintendent

Van Buren Public Schools